Appendix 1

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

Overview and Scrutiny Committee- Decision Summary

Meeting: 25th June 2018

http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/meetings/overview-and-scrutiny-committee-15th-june-2/?date=2018-06-25

Chair: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting

Item	Topic	Decision *[None of the decisions below are key decisions]*
1.	**Apologies**	Apologies received from Cllr Chamberlain, no substitute.
2.	**Declaration of Interests**	There were no declarations of interest.
3.	**Minutes**	a) The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st June 2018 were agreed as a correct record. Cllr Boden advised the committee that he had received information from officers regarding the Land Trust Loan which had been raised at the previous meeting and was satisfied that the work being undertaken was following best practice.

Item	Topic	Decision *[None of the decisions below are key decisions]*
		Cllr Boden advised that in reference to the Key Priority themes discussed at the last meeting that he had met with the Portfolio Holder for Fiscal Strategy and that Cllr Count fully welcomed the involvement of the Overview and Scrutiny members. b) The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th June 2018 were agreed as a correct record. The Chair agreed to allow a question from Cllr Baigent from Cambridge City Council, under her discretionary powers. Cllr Baigent asked the committee: 'The failure of the scrutiny committee to be quorate for the 'call in meeting' on the 15th June is unexplained. Without an explanation it is possible to suggest a very serious contempt of the scrutiny process by the majority party. My question is to each of those members who failed to turn up. I would like them to explain why they did not attend, if they notified their deputy (and if they did) why did their deputy did not attend and I would also like to ask them to provide a detailed account of any communications or discussions about the 'call in meeting' that they had with the mayor, his Chief of Staff, the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer or any other member of the combined authority staff.' The Chair advised that she did not feel it was appropriate to ask each member to explain their absence and the absence of their substitute at the public meeting. The Committee discussed their concerns around the call in failure due to member attendance and that it was worrying if the meeting had been inquorate due to a political stunt. 3.6 Members advised that as call in meetings were ad hoc it was sometimes difficult to ensure attendance for themselves or for their substitutes as it was such short notice. The Committee discussed how call in's are an important power that the committee has and that it must be used effectively otherwise the Overview and Scrutiny would lose its teeth. Following comments from another member, the Chair said that if there had been any involvement from officers or the Mayor's office in members' decision not to attend the call in meeting that would be of great concern and would request that the committee receive written assurance that this was not the case.

Item	Topic	Decision *[None of the decisions below are key decisions]*
		The Committee agreed that it was important to put the incident behind them and for the committee to operate together to ensure effective overview and scrutiny of the Combined Authority.
4.	**Mayor in Attendance**	The Mayor of the Combined Authority was in attendance at the meeting to answer questions from the committee members. The following points were discussed with the Mayor: <u>Committee structure:</u> The members queried why a committee structure was being considered and when it would be coming to the Board for a decision - The Mayor advised the Committee that a report would be coming to the July Board meeting for the members to discuss. The Mayor felt that the committee structure was stronger and a more resilient structure than the cabinet/ executive structure. The position for the Leaders from each constituent council to undertake the work of Portfolio Holders at the Combined Authority was a much larger demand than previously expected and it was important to consider who had the capacity to take on the work. Any changes to leadership at the constituent councils had an immediate impact on the resilience of Portfolio Holders to continue their work for the Combined Authority. The plan was to have chairman of committees so that if a leader changed then the committee could continue its work. The Mayor felt that the committee structure would also mean that decision making would be shared in a more democratic way. The Mayor recognised that the structure for the Combined Authority needed to be reconsidered. <u>Forward plan:</u> A member of the committee raised a question about the publication date and items being put on the forward plan and was advised that the Combined Authority operated under the same

Item	Topic	Decision *[None of the decisions below are key decisions]*
		statutory rules as any other council with regard to the forward plan, ie the forward plan had to be published 28 days before the intended decision was due to be taken but this meant that the decision could be taken on this date or could be deferred to a later date if necessary, the forward plan was updated every month and the next statutory deadline for publication was the 27th June. <u>Pubic engagement:</u> Members questioned the Mayor on public engagement and whether with the ambitious timescales that the Mayor had set for projects, was public consultation factored into these timescales. The Mayor advised that public consultations had been factored into all projects. He was always available and happy to attend meetings and be involved in public consultations and engage with the public to ensure an understanding of each project. The fast pace of the Combined Authority was possible as unlike constituent councils there was no need to apply and wait for funding to be allocated from central government for projects. <u>Overview and Scrutiny Call In meeting and the Mayor's views on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</u> The Mayor advised he had received a call from the Monitoring Officer to advise the call in meeting would not be quorate but had been willing to attend that morning. Regarding the work of the committee, the Mayor stated that he believed that this committee had a great opportunity to drive change and set the pace for what could be achieved. The Mayor was happy to attend all Overview and Scrutiny committee meetings if that was required but believed that it was up to the committee to decide how best to operate going forward. In response to a question about funding for Task and Finish groups for the committee, the Mayor advised that it would be up to the committee to approach the Mayor when there was an area that they felt would need further investigation. He thought that the committee would have more time

Item	Topic	Decision *[None of the decisions below are key decisions]*
		to scrutinise decisions or the implementation of decisions that the Board may have missed or could be improved upon and therefore the role of the Committee was incredibly important. <u>The Mayor's trip to Boston:</u> Cllr Gehring asked a question about whether the Mayor was representing himself as the Mayor for Cambridge when he was abroad and whether he was representing the Combined Authority area. Cllr Gehring also asked about the agreement that had been signed between the Mayor and the Mayor of Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Mayor responded that he was representing the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area not just Cambridge and that he was not a chain wearing Mayor. The Mayor advised that his role was to promote the area of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and through his travels to the USA he had met numerous Mayors who represented similar areas to Cambridgeshire and that it was very important to ensure that Cambridgeshire was known on the international stage, especially with Brexit and the unknown outcomes of Brexit, it was important to have international partners who knew Cambridgeshire. The agreement that had been signed between the Mayor and the Mayor of Cambridge Massachusetts had resulted from previous meetings held when the Mayor had travelled to Washington earlier in the year and the Mayor was happy to share the agreement that had been signed. The Chair thanked the Mayor for answering the committees' questions.
5.	**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2030 Prospectus and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Four Year Plan 2018-19 -2021-22**	The Committee agreed to ask questions to the Mayor on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2030 Prospectus and the Four Year Plan 2018/19-2021/22 together. The following points were discussed:

Item	Topic	Decision *[None of the decisions below are key decisions]*
		• Members asked the Mayor what modelling had been done and what was planned to carry out the objectives for doubling the economy. The Committee were advised that there was an interim report from the Economic Commission which would be finalised in September. This report showed a significant difference in growth for the area than that predicted by central government. There were three separate areas of growth in the Combined Authority area; strongest was in the Peterborough area. The Cambridge Ahead report stated that if changes weren't made than the cost of living would push the growth backwards and there was a significant risk around this. The Mayor had been tasked to build 100k new homes on top of the local plans, there was also the spatial plan. The Mayor stated that he believed that Community Land Trusts were the key alternative way to deliver housing; the traditional model currently used was not working and new options and innovative ways of thinking were needed. • In response to a question about Land Capture and dealing with developers to tackle the housing problems, the Mayor advised that Land Capture was the same as using Community Land Trusts and by using these, the control would rest with the trust rather than with the developer and it was very important to take out this viability and stop national developers controlling the housing market. • Even though central government had rejected the idea of Land Value Capture, the point of the devolution deal was to create a system that would work for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough without Westminster involvement. The Mayor felt that the Combined Authority could find money through Land Value Capture to produce something fundamental. • The funding for the St Neots Masterplan would come from the Combined Authority and it was important to note that most people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough lived in these smaller market towns. • The committee were advised that the process for the prospectus and fouryear plan had been done in consultation with leaders and chief executive officers of each constituent council and had been approved by the Board in May. The Mayor was now presenting the

Item	Topic	Decision *[None of the decisions below are key decisions]*
		prospectus and four-year plan to all councils in the area to give members an opportunity to comment. An annual review of the plan would be undertaken each year. • The Mayor was working with the Mayor of London to get delivery of electric charging points a priority to make the change to electric cars more viable. • It was important to recognise that there were many businesses in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area that needed to use the road systems; there was business traffic that used the roads to get to London and other places which could not be ignored. The biggest industry in the area was agriculture which required an improved road system. • Most people didn't work in the centre of Cambridge and therefore an integrated transport system which would enable people to choose an easy mode of public transport to get from one side of the city to the other was necessary. • Electric buses should be where the Combined Authority should be looking but currently the bus review was ongoing and the outcome of the review would ensure the best system was put in place. • In response to a question about Brexit the Mayor advised that there was no certainty around the Brexit issue. This was part of the reason why the Mayor was building relationships in America to ensure that Cambridgeshire was at the front of the queue once the outcome of Brexit had become clearer. Any assessments that would be undertaken now would not give the Combined Authority a clear direction and it was better to wait before carrying out assessments on Brexit. • Cllr Boden asked whether a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Business Airport could be considered by the Mayor and the Mayor responded that Stanstead was the international airport that could be accessed easily by improving the infrastructure in the area. • The Mayor advised that the Mayoral Capacity Fund was an amount of £2m to help with the running costs for the Combined Authority.

Item	Topic	Decision *[None of the decisions below are key decisions]*
		• The Mayor would be meeting with seven potential investors for the CAM system over the next couple of weeks. • The Mayor advised that the bus subsidy power was part of the remit for the Combined Authority but these had been passed back to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to manage until March 2019. The Committee thanked the Mayor for answering their questions.
6.	**Affordable Housing**	The Committee received the report which provided an update on the current position on the delivery of the affordable housing. The following points were raised during the discussion:- Only £9m of the £100m allocated for affordable housing had been committed so far and the Director for Housing advised he would be aiming to accelerate this. The Combined Authority was working alongside a grant that had strict parameters, the funding had to feed into the existing system. The Mayor felt that the current system didn't work but it was the deal that they had to work with until a different deal could be worked out with government. Schemes were currently brought forward by the local councils to the Combined Authority. The Committee were concerned that there was not more detail available around the criteria for identifying need for affordable housing but recognised that the Director for Housing had only been in post for a short while and that a more detailed report would be brought to the September Board meeting. The Committee agreed that a report should be brought to the September Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting and that the Director for Housing should attend to provide a more detailed update.
7.	**Review of Combined Authority Agenda**	The Committee reviewed the agenda due to come to the Board on Wednesday 27th June 2018.

Item	Topic	Decision *[None of the decisions below are key decisions]*
		In reference to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Unified Staffing Structure – Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership paper members raised some concerns around the processes followed. The Chief Finance Officer who had been dealing with the process for the recruitment of directors advised the committee that the process had been approved by the Combined Authority Employment Committee, they had engaged the services of a recruitment agency and advertisements were sent out to a number of national appropriate publications for the director posts. Once the matching of the staff from the LEP to the existing roles had been completed the vacancies available would be clearer and then the process for the most appropriate recruitment process would be identified for filling the remaining positions. The Committee requested that the Chief Executive Officer be asked to provide a written response regarding the staffing structure process and that a quarterly update with an overview of the staffing situation for the Combined Authority be provided for the committee members. Some members of the committee raised their concerns about the new location for the offices of the Combined Authority being based at Alconbury Weald and its inaccessibility. The Committee agreed that they would ask the following question at the Combined Authroity Board meeting: 1) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were supportive of the St Neots Market Place Masterplan. 2) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee would like to ask whether the carbon footprint been taken into account when considering the East-West (North) Corridor - A47 Dualling Study and that the committee hoped that the carbon footprint for the project would be a key point to be considered as part of the business case.

Item	Topic	Decision *[None of the decisions below are key decisions]*
		3) The Overview and Scrutiny committee would like to know what consultation process had been undertaken for the Strategic Spatial Framework?
8.	**Combined Authority Forward Plan**	The Committee had no comments to make regarding the forward plan of the Combined Authority.
9.	**Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Report**	The Committee received the report which provided the Committee with the draft work programme for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year and asked them for comments and suggestions. Members noted that it had been useful to speak with the programme director at the workshop held before the meeting and suggested that the officer be invited to the July meeting to provide further information for the committee around the project management processes used by the Combined Authority. The Chair requested that a paper on the Medium Term Financial Plan be brought to the July meeting which would indicate which projects going forward have concrete funding. The committee members requested that a report on Affordable Housing as discussed earlier in the meeting be added to the work programme for September. The committee requested that a report and that the Director for Transport attend the November meeting to provide an interim update on the Transport Plan. The Committee requested that a standing item be added to the agenda for members from each themed group covering the work of the Combined Authority to provide a verbal update for the rest of the committee.
10.	**Date of Next Meeting**	The next meeting would be held on the 23rd July at Fenland District Council at 11am.